



## **H.R. 20 – Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act**

### **FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. 20 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL) on January 4, 2007.

H.R. 20 is expected to be considered on the House floor on October 15, 2007.

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 20 requires the Directors of the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health to expand and intensify research for postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. It also requires that they coordinate NIH and NIMH activities on postpartum depression with other national research institutes.

This legislation also establishes a grant program through the Department of Health and Human Services for the establishment, operation, and coordination of systems for delivery of services to individuals with postpartum depression or postpartum psychosis and their families.

### **BACKGROUND**

Postpartum depression is a mood disorder that affects many women during and after pregnancy. According to the NIH, postpartum depression affects between 8 and 20 percent of women, especially within the first four weeks of giving birth.

Postpartum depression is a treatable disorder if promptly diagnosed by a trained provider and a personalized regimen of care is established.

### **COST**

A cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) was not available at the time of publication.

### **STAFF CONTACT**

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